SOME CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE. IV.

By

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1. BY R. S. ADAMSON.

In a recent number of this Journal (VII, 4, 189, 1941), a species was described under the name *Anthericum stenophyllum* Adamson. This name is, however, already occupied by another plant, *A. stenophyllum* Baker Bull. Herb. Boiss. XLII. 781, 1901, and is not valid. The species is now renamed **Anthericum tenuifolium** Adamson nom. nov.

2. BY E. ESTERHUYSEN.

Coleonema nubigena Esterhuysen nom. nov., vice *C. gracile* Schltr. in Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 27, 1899, a name invalidated by *C. gracile* E. and Z. Enum. I. 106, 1835.

Diosma oppositifolia L. should be adopted instead of *D. succulenta* Berg. Bergius' description, Pl. Cap., 63, 1767, agrees with the Linnean diagnosis, Sp. Pl., 198, 1753 and the cited figure, Comm. Rar. I., t. 1.

3. BY E. P. PHILLIPS.

Acmadenia matroosbergensis Phillips nom. nov. vice *Diosma Marlothii* Dümmer. Staminodes are present and the ovary is immersed in the disc in the type, *Marloth* 7949 ! The figure in Ann. Bolus Herb. III, p. 1, 1920, shows staminodes. The change of specific name is necessitated by the existence of *Acmadenia Marlothii* Dümmer, loc. cit. III, p. 86, 1921.

Acmadenia uniflora (Phillips) Phillips, comb. nov. vice *Euchaetis uniflora* Phillips.

Micrococca Benth, and **Erythrococca** Benth. In Hooker's Niger Flora (1849), Bentham described the above two genera with a single species in each, but both of which had previously been described under other genera. (*Micrococca mercurialis* Benth = *Tragia mercurialis* Linn ; *Erythrococca aculeata* Benth. = *Adelia anomala* Poir). In reading through Bentham's descriptions I fail to find a character which will distinguish the two genera. The descriptions of the two genera in the "Flora Capensis", "Flora of Tropical Africa", and Bentham & Hooker's "Genera Plantarum" give no generic character whereby the genera may be separated. In the key, the difference is stated to be "perulate buds" in *Erythrococca* and "naked buds" in *Micrococca.* I have examined Wood's specimen No. 11810 quoted in the "Flora Capensis" as *Erythrococca berberidea* Prain and the buds are certainly not perulate. All the South African material in the National Herbarium has been dissected and I am of the opinion that the two genera as proposed by Bentham are not distinct.

MICROCOCCA Benth. emend. (*Erythrococca* Benth.) *Plants* dioecious or monoecious. *Petals* 0. *Male Flowers : Calyx* splitting into 3—4 valvate lobes. *Disc* 0. *Stamens* 2—60, usually intermixed with small glands and sometimes surrounded by a ring of similar free or connate glands ; filaments free ; anther-thecae free from the base or almost from the base. *Pistil* 0. *Female flowers : Calyx* 2—4-partite ; lobes imbricate. *Disc* of linear or flattened scales, alternating with the carpels, rarely saucer-shaped. *Ovary* 2—3-chambered, rarely 4-chambered, with a solitary ovule in each chamber ; styles 3, rarely 4, free or connate below, sometimes reflexed and lying on the ovary, plumose-laciniate. *Capsule* breaking up into 2-valved cocci or by abortion 1-coccous. *Seed* globose or sub-globose, with a thin aril ; endosperm fleshy (or endosperm 0 ?).

Shrubs or herbs ; leaves alternate, often large, often serrate, often acuminate ; stipules small, sometimes modified into weak spines ; inflorescence a raceme or spike ; male flowers glomerulate and distant on the spike, occasionally with a central female flower, sometimes long pedicelled ; female flowers usually solitary.

Micrococca natalensis (Prain) Phillips = *Erythrococca natalensis* Prain.
Micrococca berberidea (Prain) Phillips = *Erythrococca berberidea* Prain.

Buxus Linn. and **Notobuxus** Oliv. In South Africa two species belonging to the family *Buxaceae* have been described viz. *Buxus Macowani* Oliv. which, so far as we know, only occurs in the Kingwilliamstown and East London districts, and *Notobuxus natalensis* Oliv., recorded from Zululand and Natal to Port St. Johns. *Notobuxus* Oliv. has been distinguished from *Buxus* Linn. on account of having six stamens as opposed to 4. An examination of the specimens of the two species in the National Herbarium, Pretoria leaves no doubt that both belong to the same genus. The number of stamens is not constant, as in a specimen of *Notobuxus* *natalensis* Oliv. (*Bayer* 767 and *Gerstner* 4015) the number of stamens varies from four to eight; the main character on which the two genera were separated thus breaks down.

J. Hutchinson (Kew Bulletin, 1912, p. 52), summarises the literature on the family *Buxaceae* and there is general agreement that the genus *Buxus* is characterised by having four stamens with the anthers supported by filaments and a rudimentary pistil in the male flower. In the "Flora of Tropical Africa" (1912) species with sessile anthers and without rudimentary pistils are placed in the genus *Buxus* solely on the number of stamens present. This in the writer's opinion is not justified, and it results in a discontinuous distribution of the genus *Notobuxus* in Africa leaving a gap between Angola and Nyasaland and Kingwilliamstown and East London, in which the genus is not supposed to occur. If it is accepted, as the writer maintains is the case, that the Zululand, Natal, and Pondoland plants belong to the same genus as the Kingwilliamstown and East London plants a link is provided with the Angola and Nyasaland plants which also have sessile anthers and no rudimentary pistil in the male flowers.

Two courses are open in dealing with the question, (1) either to enlarge the conception of the genus *Buxus* to include those plants with 4—8 stamens, sessile anthers, and without a rudimentary pistil or (2) to include all such plants in a separate genus *Notobuxus*. Earlier authors agree (see Hutchinson l.c.) that those species with sessile anthers and without a rudimentary ovary form a distinct section (*Buxella*) in the genus *Buxus* though they still retain the genus *Notobuxus* for those plants which have six stamens but which otherwise agree with species placed in the section *Buxella*. Linneaus founded the genus *Buxus* on the species *B. sempervirens* which has anthers supported by filaments and a rudimentary ovary in the male plant; Oliver (Hook. Ic. pl. 1518) when describing *Buxus Macowani* remarks "we have in the sessile anthers and suppression of the ovary-rudiment in the male flower a noteworthy departure from the normal generic character." The view is held here that the two characters viz. anthers supported by filaments and a rudimentary pistil in the male flowers as accepted by Baillon (1859) should characterise the genus *Buxus*, and that species with sessile anthers and without a rudimentary pistil, irrespective of the number of anthers, should be placed in a separate genus, the genus *Notobuxus* founded by Oliver (1880-1882). The generic description, however, requires slight emendation to meet the situation. The genera may be distinguished as follows:

BUXUS Linn. Stamens 4; anthers supported by filaments; rudimentary pistil present in the male flower.

NOTOBUXUS Oliv. Stamens 4—8; anthers sessile; rudimentary pistil absent in the male flowers.

The separation of the two genera as indicated above necessitates some name changes as follows :—

1. **N. acuminata** (Gilg) Hutchinson.
2. **N. banguellensis** (Gilg) Phillips.
3. **N. Macowani** (Oliv.) Phillips.
4. **N. madagascarica** (Baill.) Phillips.
5. **N. natalensis** Oliv.
6. **N. nyasica** (Hutch.) Phillips.
7. **N. obtusifolius** Mildbr.